THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) There is no proposal to set up hatchery units in Gujarat for promotion aquaculture at present. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture and Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development, there is a provision for giving financial support to private/public sector for establishment of fish and shrimp farms and seed hatcheries. The schemes are open to all States including Gujarat.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) There is no proposal at present to shift the headquarters of any institution involved in fisheries to the State of Gujarat.

Encouragement to Farmers' Organisations

1498. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give encouragement to farmers' organisations in remote and tribal areas which are representing farmers' issues;

(b) what assistance and recognition has been given to organisation s like the Godavari Tobacco Growers and Farmers Association of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether their suggestions have been taken up in policy formulations; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage such farmers' unions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The farmers' organisations are given due importance. However, no financial assistance or formal recognition is given to these organisations. The views expressed and suggestions made by the farmers either individually or through their organisations are taken into consideration while framing various policies and programmes regarding Agriculture.

Agricultural price and procurement policy

1499. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the role of agricultural price and procurement policy in increasing agriculture production and income of farmers;

(b) whether Government propose to review this policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The agricultural price and procurement policy followed by the Government has paid rich dividends in terms of crop production in general and production of foodgrains in particular and thereby increasing the income of the farmers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Growth rate in agriculture

1500. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the long term trend of growth rate in agriculture;

(b) whether the long term trend of growth in agriculture is low; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to raise the growth rate of agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The long term compound growth rate of crop production in agriculture during 1967-68 to 1992-93 was observed as 2 80% per annum.

(b) The long term growth rate of crop production in the country is much higher than the rate of growth of population.

(c) For increasing the productivity and production of crops, various crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; National Pulses Development Programme; Oilseeds Production Programme; Special Jute Development Programme etc. are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertilisers in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the productivity of crops.

Targets for foodgrain production

1501. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the targets set for production of foodgrains during the first three years of Eighth Five Year Plan period;